been any modification in the policy of financial institutions (FIs) in regard to disputes between promoters and professional management of an assisted company. In case of such disputes, the FIs take appropriate action having regard to the interest of the company, track record of the professional management and the nature and content of the dispute without sacrificing the interest of the FIs.

(b) to (e): Do not arise.

Tax Exemption on Computer Equipments

*497. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests have been received by Government from the Computer Traders Association to reduce import duty, excise duty and sales tax on computer peripherals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these requests also include tax exemption on computer equipments sold to academic institutions, research institutions and non-profit bodies;

(d) whether Government would ensure that the academic institutions enjoying reduction in taxes would also reduce the learning fee of computers charged from students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) (a) No such request has been received from an Association by the name of Computer Traders Association.

(b) and (e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Loans to private companies from P.F.C.

*498. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has sanctioned any loan to any private sector power plants;

(b) if so, what are the names of such power plants;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the sources from which loans are made available to the private companies in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Though Power Finance Corporation (PFC), as per its charter, is permitted to fund private power projects, the focus hitherto has been to supplement the meagre resources available to SEBs for undertaking their capital development programme.

(d) Sources of loans for private sector power projects include domestic & foreign financial institutions, commercial banks, and multilateral aid agencies. Loans can also be raised in Indian & foreign capital markets.

Increase in lending rates on term deposits

*499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the lending rates on term deposits with banks in the country to curb inflation;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether, after the increase of lending rates on term deposits with banks, the rate of inflation has been affected; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) As a part of the credit policy for the first half of 1995-96 announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the maximum term deposit rate has been raised by one percentage point. The existing and the revised term deposits rates (excluding non-resident deposits) are given below:

(Per cent per annum)

Duration	Existing Rates	New Rates (Effective April 18, 1995)
46 days to 3 years and above	'Not exceeding' 11.00	'Not exceeding' 12.00

Most banks have as a result, raised interest rates on term deposits of various maturity. As a consequence of the higher cost of resources most banks have also raised their prime-lending rate by 0.5 per cent (from 15.0 per cent to 15.5 per cent) excluding interest tax.

As per latest available data, inflation rate, as measured by the index numbers of whole sale prices on year point at point basis was 8.74 per cent, as on 22nd April, 1995. It is too early to assess the impact of increase in maximum deposit rate on rate of inflation.

Concessions for blind persons

*500. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether blind persons get some concessions for travelling by air;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand by the associations of the handicapped persons in the country to extend this concession; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to high cost of operations, such concessions to physically and mentally handicapped persons is not possible.

Vacancies of aircraft technicians in Air India at Madras station

5195. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies exist at Madras station of Air India for posting of aircraft technicians;

(b) the details in this regard in respect of avionics and air frame/engine streams, separately;

(c) how many technicians have been posted against these vacancies in the past